

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing multimedia programs that are not playable on a digital audio player, said programs being composed of composite signals including an audio program component and a video program component comprising:

- an input port used to receive a composite signal;
- an extractor coupled to said input port and adapted to selectively extract said audio program component from said composite signal without extracting said ~~video-signal~~ program component;
- a processor that processes said audio program component to generate a processed audio signal in a format that can be received and played by the digital audio player; and
- an output port for outputting said processed audio signal[.];

wherein said audio program component includes a multichannel audio signal and wherein said processed signal includes a stereo audio signal; and

wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal to generate said stereo audio signal.

2-10. (CANCELLED)

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). An apparatus for generating an audio output in a format that can be played by a digital audio player from composite signals that are incompatible with the audio player, said apparatus comprising:

- a broadband input port adapted to receive a multimedia program including a composite signal with an audio and video component;
- a data storage adapted to store said multimedia program;
- a controller adapted to receive selections from a user and to generate commands responsive to said selections;
- an extractor responsive to said commands and adapted to receive said multimedia program and to selectively extract said audio component without extracting said video component from said multimedia program;
- a processor processing said audio component to generate a digital audio signal in a format that is playable by the digital audio player; and
- an output port outputting said processed audio output signal[.];

wherein audio component includes a multichannel audio signal; and
wherein said processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal, and an encoder adapted to encode the folded audio signal using a standard compression protocol to generate said digital output signal.

12-14. (CANCELLED)

15 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The apparatus of claim [[14]] 11 wherein said encoder is adapted to encode said folded audio signal using an MPEG protocol.

16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The apparatus of claim [[14]] 11 wherein said encoder is adapted to encode said folded audio signal using an ATRAC protocol.

17_(CURRENTLY AMENDED) . A method of processing a multimedia program for play on an incompatible digital audio device comprising the steps of:

- receiving said multimedia program, said multimedia program including an audio component and a video component;
- extracting said audio component from said multimedia program without extracting said video component;
- extracting from said multimedia program a metadata component;
- storing said metadata component as part of said audio component;
- processing said audio component to generate a processed audio signal in a format compatible with the digital audio device so that said processed audio signal is playable on the digital audio device; and
- outputting said processed signal to the digital audio device.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program is received electronically from a distribution network, further comprising storing said multimedia program.

19-24 (CANCELLED)

25 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program is a compressed format and said processed audio signal is an uncompressed format.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 17 wherein said multimedia program includes a multi-channel audio signal and said processed audio signal includes a stereo channel audio signal.

27. (CANCELLED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of processing a multimedia program for playing at least an audio component of the program on an incompatible digital multimedia player, said method comprising:

receiving said multimedia program composed of composite signals

including said audio ~~program~~-component and a video component;

selectively extracting from said multimedia program in response to commands from a user said audio component without extracting said video signal;

processing said audio component to generate a processed audio signal having a format compatible with the digital multimedia player; and

selectively outputting said processed audio signal to the digital audio player.

29 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port is adapted to receive a broadband multimedia program.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port includes a media reader.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port includes a DVD reader.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processed signal is a compressed signal in one of an MPEG and an ATRAC standard.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol and wherein said extractor is adapted to use said MPEG protocol to extract said audio component.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[14]] 11 wherein said folder circuit folds said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of processing a multimedia program for play on an incompatible digital audio device comprising the steps of:
receiving said multimedia program, said multimedia program including an audio component and a video component;
extracting said audio component from said multimedia program without extracting said video component;
processing said audio component to generate a processed audio signal in a format compatible with the digital audio device so that said processed audio signal is playable on the digital audio device; and
outputting said processed signal to the digital audio device-;
~~The method of claim 17_~~ wherein said multichannel program includes a multichannel audio signal, further comprising folding said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[17]] 35 further comprising compressing said processed audio signal.

37.(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 36 wherein said processed audio is compressed one of an MPEG and an ATRAC protocol.

38 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 35 further comprising saving said processed output signal before it is output to said digital audio device.